

# 無能の人

つげ義春



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第一話

# 石を 売る

つげ義春

CHAPTER I:  
SELLING ROCKS





COULDN'T REALLY THINK  
OF ANYTHING ELSE.



I STARTED  
SELLING ROCKS.

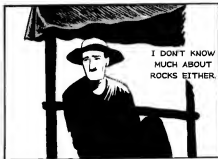




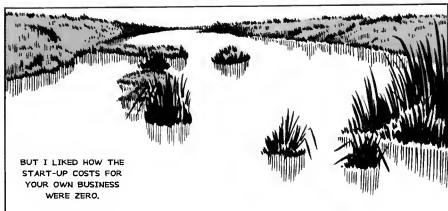
I TRIED MANGA,  
USED CAMERAS,  
ANTIQUES... BUT  
NONE OF THEM  
REALLY WORKED  
OUT AS PLANNED.



JUST PICKED UP  
A FEW THINGS  
FROM A ROCK BOOK.



I DON'T KNOW  
MUCH ABOUT  
ROCKS EITHER.



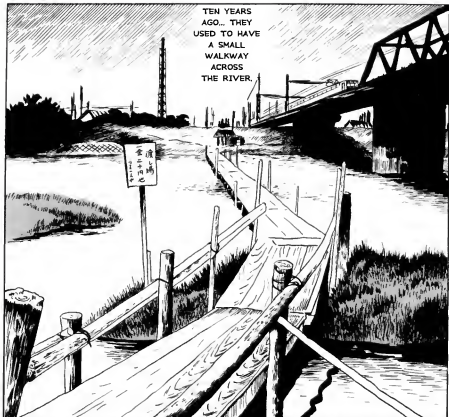
BUT I LIKED HOW THE  
START-UP COSTS FOR  
YOUR OWN BUSINESS  
WERE ZERO.

TAMAGAWA  
RIVER.  
MIDSTREAM.





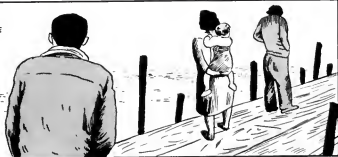
TEN YEARS  
AGO... THEY  
USED TO HAVE  
A SMALL  
WALKWAY  
ACROSS  
THE RIVER.



THERE WAS AN  
OLD MAN WHO RAN  
EVERYTHING, BUT  
HE FINALLY GOT OLD  
ENOUGH HE HAD TO RETIRE.



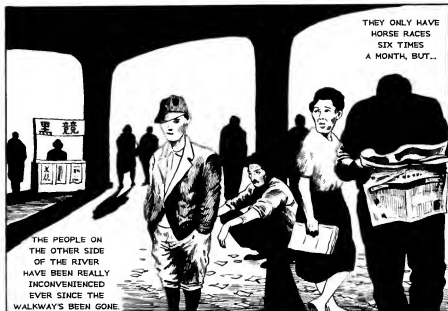
THERE USED TO  
BE THIRTY PEOPLE  
A DAY THAT  
WOULD CROSS  
THE RIVER.



ON DAYS THEY  
HAD HORSE RACES,  
THE NUMBERS  
WOULD JUMP  
TO 200 PEOPLE  
A DAY.



THEY ONLY HAVE  
HORSE RACES  
SIX TIMES  
A MONTH, BUT...

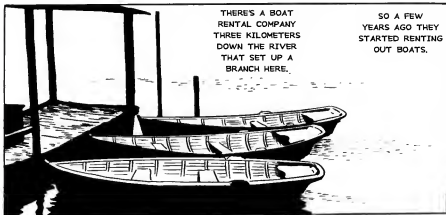


THE PEOPLE ON  
THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE RIVER  
HAVE BEEN REALLY  
INCONVENIENCED  
EVER SINCE THE  
WALKWAYS BEEN GONE.



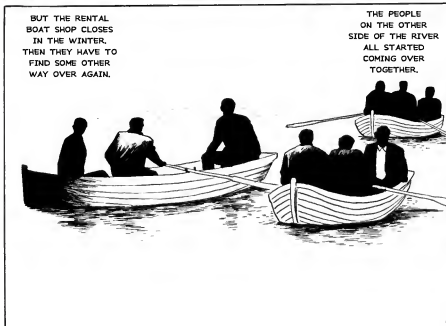


THEY PROBABLY  
DON'T WANT  
TO HAVE TO  
USE THE  
TRAIN TO JUST  
GO ONE  
STATION OVER.



THERE'S A BOAT  
RENTAL COMPANY  
THREE KILOMETERS  
DOWN THE RIVER  
THAT SET UP A  
BRANCH HERE.

SO A FEW  
YEARS AGO THEY  
STARTED RENTING  
OUT BOATS.

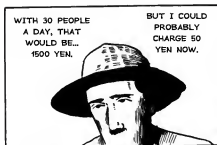


BUT THE RENTAL  
BOAT SHOP CLOSES  
IN THE WINTER.  
THEN THEY HAVE TO  
FIND SOME OTHER  
WAY OVER AGAIN.

THE PEOPLE  
ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE RIVER  
ALL STARTED  
COMING OVER  
TOGETHER.

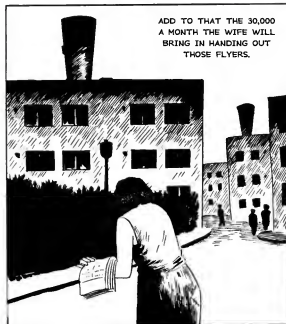
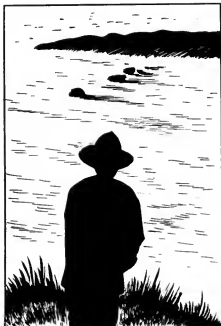


BACK  
THEN,  
USING  
THE  
WALKWAY  
WAS  
20 YEN.

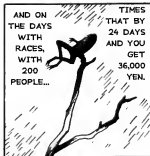


WITH 30 PEOPLE  
A DAY, THAT  
WOULD BE...  
1500 YEN.

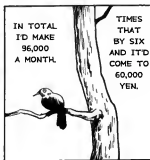
BUT I COULD  
PROBABLY  
CHARGE 50  
YEN NOW.



ADD TO THAT THE 30,000  
A MONTH THE WIFE WILL  
BRING IN HANDING OUT  
THOSE FLYERS.



AND ON  
THE DAYS  
WITH  
RACES,  
WITH  
200  
PEOPLE...  
TIMES  
THAT BY  
24 DAYS  
AND YOU  
GET  
36,000  
YEN.



IN TOTAL  
I'D MAKE  
96,000  
A MONTH.

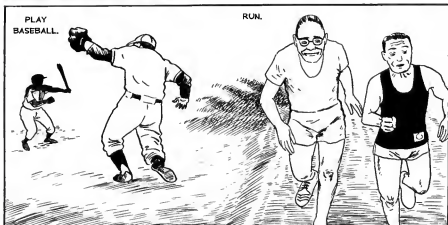
TIMES  
THAT  
BY SIX  
AND IT'D  
COME TO  
60,000  
YEN.





JUICE: 50 YEN. ALCOHOL: 50 YEN.  
VIEWING STONE CAMPAIGN GOING ON NOW.

PAY HERE.  
WALKWAY SERVICE.





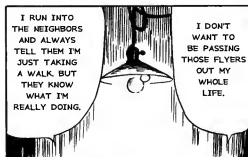
SOMETHING  
TELLS ME  
I COULD MAKE  
A STEADY  
INCOME.



WHAT ABOUT WHEN  
IT RAINST? WHAT  
ABOUT WINTER?  
NO ONE GOES  
TO THE RIVER  
DURING  
WINTER.

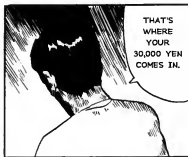


BIRD  
WATCHING.



I RUN INTO  
THE NEIGHBORS  
AND ALWAYS  
TELL THEM I'M  
JUST TAKING  
A WALK. BUT  
THEY KNOW  
WHAT I'M  
REALLY DOING.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
BE PASSING  
THOSE FLYERS  
OUT MY  
WHOLE  
LIFE.



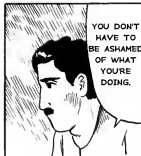
THAT'S  
WHERE  
YOUR  
30,000 YEN  
COMES IN.



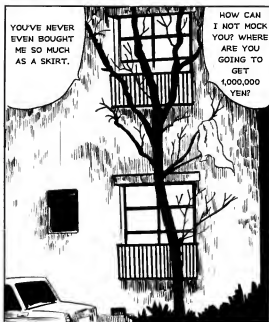
HARDER.



I'VE GOT 3000  
APARTMENTS  
I HAVE TO  
COVER. IT'S  
KILLING ME.



YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BE ASHAMED  
OF WHAT  
YOU'RE  
DOING.

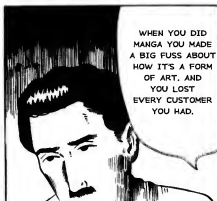




AND IF WE  
FILLED  
UP THE  
BATH  
DROP  
BY DROP  
THE METER  
PROBABLY  
WOULDN'T  
CATCH IT.



WE  
COULD  
CUT  
DOWN  
ON  
GAS  
USAGE.



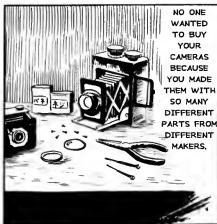
WHEN YOU DID  
MANGA YOU MADE  
A BIG FUSS ABOUT  
HOW IT'S A FORM  
OF ART. AND  
YOU LOST  
EVERY CUSTOMER  
YOU HAD.



THOSE  
ARE YOUR  
IDEAS?



YOU SPENT  
SO MUCH TIME  
TRYING TO  
HAVE THE  
ANTIQUES  
YOU MADE  
LOOK AUTHEN-  
TIC THAT  
YOU ENDED  
UP NEVER  
FINISHING  
ANYTHING.



NO ONE  
WANTED  
TO BUY  
YOUR  
CAMERAS  
BECAUSE  
YOU MADE  
THEM WITH  
SO MANY  
DIFFERENT  
PARTS FROM  
DIFFERENT  
MAKERS.





YOU WANT  
TO SET SOME  
ROCKS OUT  
FOR PEOPLE  
TO BUY RIGHT  
NEXT TO  
YOUR WALKWAY  
BUSINESS.



AND NOW  
YOU WANT  
TO SELL  
ROCKS.



WHY DON'T  
YOU JUST  
CARRY  
PEOPLE  
ON YOUR  
BACK  
ACROSS  
THE RIVER.



YOU DO IT.

TAKE CARE  
OF HIM.

HIS ASTHMA'S  
ACTING UP  
AGAIN.

MUGIGAWA  
RIVER  
PATTERN  
DESIGN.  
200,000 YEN.



KAMANASHIGAWA  
WATERFALL  
STONE.  
30,000 YEN.

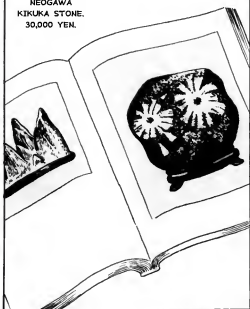


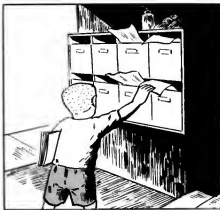
MOJIBAIKA  
STONE.  
100,000 YEN.



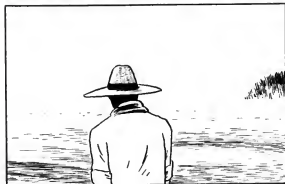


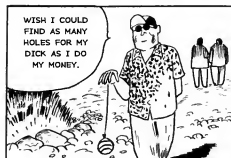
NEOGAWA  
KIKUKA STONE.  
30,000 YEN.

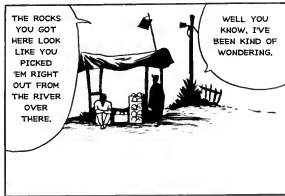




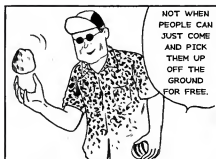














IT'S TAKEN ME TWO YEARS TO FIND A GOOD SELECTION OF ROCKS FROM THIS RIVER.



(LONE BOAT...?\*)



THESE THINGS NEED TO BE SOLD IN AN ANTIQUE STORE.



BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T SELL THEM NEXT TO WHERE YOU PICKED THEM UP.

(\*HE'S READING THE KANJI ON THE LABEL ATTACHED TO THE ROCK, JUST IN CASE)



SPIRIT.

WIND.

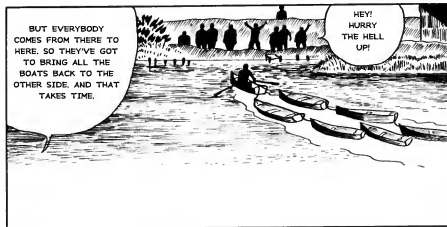
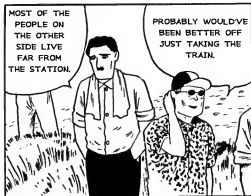
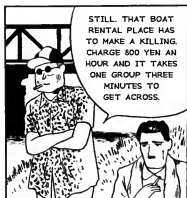
CLOUD.

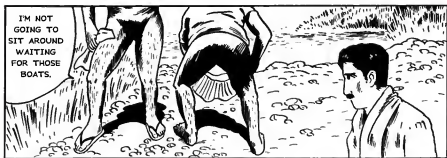


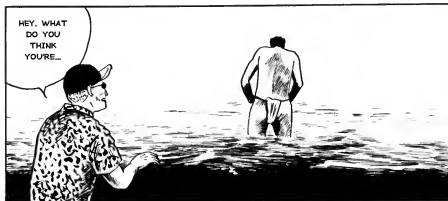
HEH. I SEE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.

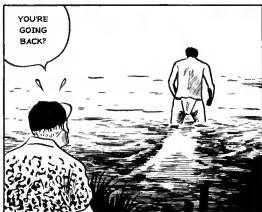
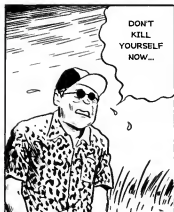
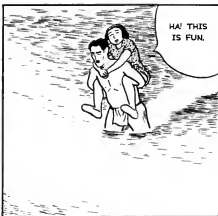




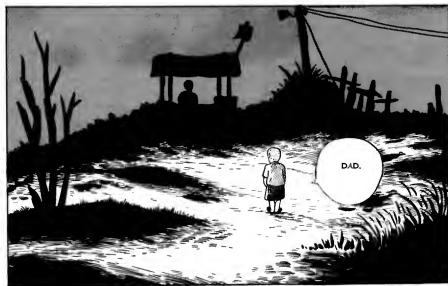
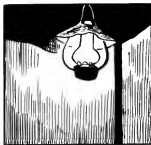
















"CROWS ARE SAYING 'IDIOT, IDIOT'". TYPICAL KIND OF MANGA JOKE.